

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /117 W

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P R 121715Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5645

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AEMBASSY HELSINKI 0635

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1186

USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1047

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, IC, UK

SUBJECT: GOI SET STIFF TERMS IN FISHERIES TALKS WITH UK

1. SUMMARY: GOI INFORMED BRITISH YESTERDAY THAT IT HAS
NO POLITICAL MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE NEW AGREEMENTS THAT WOULD
PERMIT FOREIGN FISHING WITHIN 50 MILES OF ICELAND. IN
ADDITION, ICELANDIC NEGOTIATORS INSISTED THAT ANY NEW
FISHERIES AGREEMENTS WITH EC MEMBERS MUST BE CONDITIONAL
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ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ICELAND-EC TARIFF AGREEMENT.

PARTIES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN EARLY OCTOBER. END SUMMARY.

2. ICELANDIC AND BRITISH NEGOTIATORS HELD INITIAL TALKS IN REYKJAVIK SEPTEMBER 11 ON ISSUES STEMMING FROM PLANNED GOI EXTENSION OF FISHING LIMITS TO 200 MILES NEXT MONTH AND EXPIRATION OF EXISTING GOI-HMG FISHERIES AGREEMENT IN NOVEMBER. ICELANDIC NEGOTIATORS WERE HEADED BY FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON; UK TEAM LED BY FCO MINISTER OF STATE ROY HATTERSLY. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING BASED ON RUNDOWNS PROVIDED US THIS MORNING BY BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND MFA INTERNATIONAL DIVISION CHIEF.

3. DISCUSSIONS LASTED ABOUT 2 1/2 HOURS SPREAD OVER TWO SESSIONS. THEY CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF PRESENTATION BY BOTH SIDES OF RESPECTIVE POSITIONS, WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE GIVE-AND-TAKE ON SPECIFIC POINTS. BOTH PARTIES EXPRESSED DESIRE TO REACH NEW AGREEMENT BEFORE EXPIRATION OF CURRENT ONE ON NOVEMBER 13. UK SIDE SAID IT WOULD PREFER LONG-TERM PACT, POSSIBLE ONE OF TEN YEARS DURATION. GOI REPLIED THAT IT HAD IN MIND ONLY VERY BRIEF AGREEMENT, EG FOR ONE YEAR.

4. BRITISH SUBSTANTIVE PRESENTATION FOCUSED ON HOPE THAT NEW AGREEMENT COULD BE BASED ON TERMS OF PREVIOUS ONE; THAT IS (AS EXPLAINED BY BRITISH AMBASSADOR), UK WANTS TO LEAVE BASIC PROVISIONS LARGELY UNCHANGED WHILE USING LOWERED TOTAL CATCH FIGURE AS POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR REDUCING PROPORTIONATELY OR OTHERWISE ADJUSTING SUCH SPECIFIC POINTS AS NUMBER OF VESSELS ALLOWED AND DATES AND AREAS TO BE OPEN. AT UK REQUEST, PARTIES REVIEWED PROVISIONS OF 1973 AGREEMENT, THOUGH ON UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH REVIEW WAS NON-BINDING IN TERMS OF ANY FUTURE AGREEMENT.

5. BRITISH VOICED CONCERN OVER SHORTAGE OF TIME REMAINING BEFORE EXISTING AGREEMENT RUNS OUT AND PRESSED FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY BEFORE THE END OF MONTH. FONMIN AGUSTSSON SAID HIS ATTENDANCE AT UNGA WOULD PRECLUDE THIS, BUT IT WAS AGREED TO MEET IN LONDON ON OCTOBER 2 OR 9 IF AGUSTSSON CAN ARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE ACCORDINGLY.

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6. ICELANDIC PRESENTATION FEATURED FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- GOI CURRENTLY HAS NO MANDATE TO ALLOW FOREIGN FISHING WITHIN 50 MILES OF ICELAND'S COAST. ANY CONCESSIONS TO FOREIGNERS WITHIN THIS ZONE WOULD HAVE TO BE BASED ON FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES.

-- NO NEW FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH EC MEMBERS WILL GO INTO EFFECT PENDING IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE SIX OF GOI-EC AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR REDUCED TARIFFS ON ICELANDIC IMPORTS INTO EC.

-- NEW ICELAND-UK AGREEMENT WILL ONLY BE POSSIBLE ON BASIS OF REDUCTION IN BOTH BRITISH TOTAL CATCH AND NUMBER OF VESSELS INVOLVED, PLUS CHANGES IN AREAS OPEN TO UK FISHING.

-- GOI ASSUMES ANY NEW PACT WITH UK WOULD PROVIDE FOR RECIPROCAL RIGHTS FOR ICELANDIC FISHERMEN IN BRITISH WATERS.

7. BELGIAN DELEGATION IS DUE IN REYKJAVIK OVER WEEKEND TO BEGIN FISHERIES TALKS WITH GOI ON SEPTEMBER 15.
MARTIN

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